

Marine puts war lament in verse; dies in action

A poem, written by a Baltimore soldier a few days before he was killed in action in Vietnam was submitted for publication this week by the GI's relatives.

Alexander Chin, 23, son of Mrs. Betty Chin of 2113 Koko Lane and the late Edward Chin was killed while serving with the Marine Corps in the DMZ.

He was a graduate of Maryland Art Institute and entered the service on March 8, 1967.

Funeral arrangements will be announced after arrival here of the body from Vietnam.

The poem, "I Am a Soldier" was mailed a few days before his death.

And I must keep on killing
as I am ordered today.
And maybe one day I'll be
killed too.
My battle is home, in my
native land,
The war that I know, and
understand.
Where the black must fight
if he wants to be free,
If he wants his civil rights
and equality.

This is the kind of war that
I am prepared to fight,
The one that will make me
equal to the white.
Send me back to the battle
at home,
Because this war here is
not my own.
It only came about because
of some man's greed,
But the war at home will
have some man freed.